

Finding the Subject

2e. The subject of a verb is never in a prepositional phrase.

Do not mistake a noun or pronoun in a prepositional phrase for the subject of a sentence.

EXAMPLE **Some** of the apples were rotten.

The word *there* or *here* may begin a sentence, but it is almost never the subject.

EXAMPLE Here comes the **train**.

Questions usually begin with a verb, a helping verb, or a word such as *what*, *when*, *where*, *how*, or *why*. In most cases, the subject follows the verb or part of the verb phrase.

EXAMPLE Is his **brother** coming with us?

EXERCISE In the following sentences, underline the verb twice and the subject once.

Example 1. Here is a painting by Diego Rivera.

1. The people of Mexico have a great appreciation of his work.
2. Is Rivera known for any particular style?
3. His murals of Mexico's social problems are famous.
4. We looked at that painting of two Mexican women with a baby.
5. How does the artist achieve the feeling of tranquillity in that picture?
6. What do you think of the muted colors?
7. Don't those soft pastel colors convey a sense of calm?
8. There is a copy of that picture in this brochure about the artist.
9. What is the title of that painting?
10. Here is an article about Rivera.
11. Which years was Rivera in the United States?
12. Have you seen photographs of his murals?
13. Some of the murals show different aspects of Mexican history.
14. Do you know about his wife, Frida Kahlo?
15. Wasn't Kahlo an accomplished artist, also?
16. There have been many great artists of the twentieth century.
17. What kinds of art influenced Rivera?
18. Several different styles of art influenced the artist.
19. Was he influenced by postmodernism and cubism?
20. There are significant moments in history reflected in Rivera's works.